

PUC approves PGE rate structure changes;

directory charges for PNB suspended

Public Utility Commissioner Gne Maudlin has approved a proposal by Portland General Electric Co. (PGE) to implement residential and small farm rate structure changes ordered earlier this year.

The new rate structure reduces the number of rate blocks the company uses in computing monthly bills. Instead of four rate blocks, PGE will use two blocks effective with meter readings on and after Aug. 30.

Under the new structure, affected customers will pay 3.839 cents per kilowatt-hour up to 300 kilowatt-hours and 4.799 cents for each kilowatt-hour thereafter. The change will result in small increases for customers who use small amounts of power, and decreases for those who use larger amounts.

For example, the bill for someone who uses 500 kilowatt-hours in a month will increase from \$23.53 to \$24.12, but will decrease from \$98.18 to \$96.10 for a customer using 2,000 kilowatt-hours.

Maudlin said the new structure conforms to an order he approved following an extensive investigation by the PUC staff and others into the cost-effective use of energy. He said the new structure recognizes conservation as an energy resource, and acknowledges the current electricity supply conditions.

The new rate structure will not increase PGE's revenues, Maudlin said. As part of its request, PGE said it would not seek a rate increase to offset a \$23 million reduction in residential and small farm rate benefits available from the Bonneville Power Administration.

In another decision, Maudlin said recently he will suspend a proposal by Pacific Northwest Bell Telephone Co. (PNB) to change the way it charges customers for directory assistance calls.

PNB proposes to reduce the number of free directory assistance calls from five to two per month, and to increase the price of each additional call from 20 cents to 50 cents. The company filed the request with the PUC on Aug. 16 to be effective Nov. 13.

The company also has requested to discontinue exemptions which allow free directory assistance calls from hospitals, hotels, motels, and PNB coin telephones. Exemptions for handicapped persons would continue.

The suspension will keep current prices and exemptions in effect until a decision is made by the PUC. During the suspension period the PUC staff will evaluate the proposal in detail.

Any public meetings or hearings determined to be necessary as part of the evaluation will be announced at a later date, Maudlin said.

Providence center adds to staff

Sister Maureen Hurley, S.P., has taken over the post of principal of Providence Child Center's Montessori and Emily Schools. Sister Maureen was previously principal of St. Finbar School, a Sisters of Providence elementary school in Burbank, California. Before coming to the Child Center she completed a one year training program at the Montessori Education Center of Oregon.

Donna L. Abbott, M.S.W., has been appointed the social worker in the Children's Nursing Center at Providence Child Center. Abbott received her degree in social work from Portland State University and completed her practicum experience at the Crippled Children's Division. As social worker she will coordinate admissions and discharges as well as counseling parents of children who are residents of the Center.

Providence Child Center houses four programs dedicated to the health and education of handicapped and non-handicapped children. The Montessori School enrolls 175 non-handicapped children each year and the Emily School serves 12 preschool developmentally delayed children. The Children's Nursing Center is a licensed skilled nursing facility for severely handicapped or chronically ill children. Chronically ill children are also served in the Esther Kelly Program, a day kindergarten program.

PCC schedules available

Portland Community College fall term class schedules are now available at all PCC campuses and centers and at major shopping centers, public libraries and other community outlets within the PCC district.

Fall term classes begin the week of September 23 and registration for noncredit classes may be done now. Registration procedures vary between campuses, and those wishing to register for fall classes for credit should contact the PCC campus or center of choice to obtain registration dates

and times. PCC offers a full complement of lower division transfer courses for students wishing to transfer to other colleges in the state system of colleges and universities. Associate degree and certificate programs in more than 70 areas of study are available.

In addition, the college offers non-credit classes for recreation and personal enrichment at all campuses and centers and at many locations in the community. For complete information, pick up a fall term schedule.

Hungry fleas can become quite a problem in homes and home lawns during August and September, according to Ray McNeilan, Oregon State University Extension home gardening agent. These pests will move into your house if you don't control them while they're still outside.

Fleas are small, brown, jumping, parasitic insects that are very thin from side to side. They infest pets and certain wild animals and are likely to be present in lawns as well as other

outdoor areas. Fleas gain access to households by riding in on pets such as cats and dogs. Adult fleas suck blood causing irritating bites.

The dog flea is the most common flea on cats and dogs in Oregon and it is the species that bothers humans in infested homes.

In the larval stage, the flea is tiny, slender and wormlike. Hot weather intensifies flea problems by shortening the time period required for flea larvae to mature into adults. Adult fleas can live weeks, even

months, without food. Sevin dust or spray, and diazinon spray are registered for use on lawns, building foundations and entryways, McNeilan says.

For best results in treating lawns, first mow the lawn and dispose of the clippings. Spray or dust following label directions. Do not water the lawn for at least two days. Repeat treatment at one or two week intervals until the flea problem subsides.

Observe all label directions when using any insecticides.

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